

(n) very few writers also know how to END their works.

this is it.

D. APRIL 9, 1553 (1983)

having the flu and reading Rabelais  
as the cat snores  
and the bathroom toilet tank  
hisses  
my eyes burn.

I put Rabelais down:  
this is what  
writers do  
to each other.

for him, I  
substitute  
a tab of  
vitamin C.

if we could only swallow  
death  
like that (I think we  
can)  
or that death could  
swallow us  
like that (I think it  
does).

life is not all what  
we think it  
is, it's only what we  
imagine it to  
be  
and for us  
what we imagine  
becomes  
mostly so.

I imagine myself  
rid of this  
flu

I see myself parading the  
sidewalks among the cunts and  
peckers  
of this world ...

meanwhile, the cat, like other



things, pushes too  
close;  
I move him  
gently away, thinking, Rabelais  
you were a  
mighty mighty interesting  
fellow ...

as I stretch out, the ceiling  
watches me and  
waits.

#### STRANGE (1990)

it doesn't seem so long ago that I was reading  
Pound, Jeffers, Auden, Spender.  
it doesn't seem so long ago that I was young  
coming in drunk at 2 a.m. to old roominghouses.  
it doesn't seem so long ago that I found women  
unattainable.  
it doesn't seem so long ago that I never had  
an automobile, a telephone, a bank account.  
it doesn't seem so long ago that I had  
a long run of visits to the drunk tank.  
it doesn't seem so long ago that I tried to  
be a writer,  
stopped for a long time and then tried  
again.

Pound, Jeffers, Auden, Spender, don't seem  
so long ago.

bottles of wine and old typewriters, long  
starving days, singular  
nights

it's as if I could suddenly turn around in this  
room and see myself again: what a fright, what a  
twit, what an idiot.

beaten in rooms full of rats, it was a grand time,  
not so long ago.

tonight I spoke to a man on the telephone, he is  
coming to take photos and to interview me  
for a German weekly magazine, for my  
70th birthday.

and when I hung up I was sure I could hear  
Pound, Jeffers, Auden, Spender,  
laughing.